

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 1. A method of identifying entities having expertise in one or more
2 subjects, the method comprising:
3 querying a database for documents relevant to a subject;
4 calculating a first score for each relevant document;
5 determining entities affiliated with one or more relevant documents;
6 calculating a second score for each entity based on the one or more first scores
7 of the one or more relevant documents affiliated with the entity; and
8 ranking expertise of the entities based on the respective second scores of the
9 entities.

1 2. The method of claim 1, further comprising displaying a ranking of
2 expertise of the entities to a user.

1 3. The method of claim 2, wherein displaying a ranking of expertise of
2 the entities includes graphically depicting levels of expertise.

1 4. The method of claim 2, wherein displaying a ranking of expertise of
2 the entities includes numerically depicting levels of expertise.

1 5. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
2 calculating a third score for each of a plurality of geographic areas based on
3 the respective second scores of entities located within the each of the plurality of geographic
4 areas; and
5 ranking expertise of the plurality of geographic areas based on the respective
6 third scores of the plurality of geographic areas.

1 6. The method of claim 1, wherein determining entities includes:
2 determining an author of the document; and
3 determining from what one or more institutions the document emanated.

1 7. The method of claim 6, wherein determining from what one or more
2 institutions the document emanated includes:
3 examining an address of the determined author.

1 8. The method of claim 7, wherein the address is a mailing address.

- 1 22. The method of claim 1, wherein the database of documents is the
2 Westlaw database.
- 1 23. The method of claim 1, wherein the database of documents is the Lexis
2 database.
- 1 24. The method of claim 1, wherein the database of documents is the
2 Dialog database.
- 1 25. The method of claim 1, wherein the database of documents is the
2 Medlex database.
- 1 26. The method of claim 1, wherein the database of documents is the
2 Science Citation Index.
- 1 27. The method of claim 1, wherein the database of documents is the
2 Genbank database.
- 1 28. The method of claim 1, wherein the database of documents is the
2 Internet.
- 1 29. The method of claim 1, wherein the database of documents is a subset
2 of the Internet.
- 1 30. A system for identifying expertise in a subject, the system comprising
2 a server system coupled with a database of documents, the server system having a memory
3 including:
4 a first code configured to receive a subject from a user;
5 a second code configured to query the database for documents relevant to the
6 subject;
7 a third code configured to calculate a first score for each relevant document;
8 a fourth code configured to identify entities affiliated with one or more of the
9 relevant documents;
10 a fifth code configured to calculate a second score for each entity based on the
11 one or more scores of the one or more relevant documents affiliated with the entity; and

12 a sixth code configured to provide to the user a ranking of the expertise of the
13 entities based on the respective scores of the entities.

1 31. The system of claim 30, wherein the server system is coupled to the
2 database via a world wide network of computers.

1 32. The system of claim 30 wherein the server system is coupled to a
2 world wide network of computers, and further comprising a user computer coupled with the
3 server system via the worldwide network of computers.

1 33. The system of claim 32 wherein the first code is configured to receive
2 the subject from the user via the world wide network of computers, and wherein the sixth
3 code is configured to provide to the user the ranking of the expertise of the entities via the
4 world wide network of computers.